

REMARKS

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks. Examiner Le requested that the applicant elect one of the following Groups:

- I. Claims 12-21, drawn to tungsten carbide powder and its use.
- II. Claims 22-26, drawn to method of making powder.

The applicant affirms their election of Group I claims 12-21 without traverse. The applicant respectfully requests that claims 22-26 be rejoined upon determining the allowability of claims 12-21.

Claims 12, 15 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Massey et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,248,149) ("Massey"). Claims 13, 14 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Massey. The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The applicant appreciates the Examiner permitting the applicant to interview the application on October 3, 2008. The applicant believes that the interview helped expedite prosecution. The Examiner stated that the proposed amendment would overcome the rejections based on Massey. The applicants discussed the following:

In the present invention, particles of cast tungsten carbide are heated in the presence of a carbon source producing a free-flowing powder of the particles according to claim 12 (see claim 24). The outer layer of the cast tungsten carbide particles used as the educt in the invention is converted to tungsten monocarbide coating.

In Massey, a mixture of tungsten carbide and cast tungsten carbide is employed (see Massey, col. 2, lines 39-45). During application of this mixture to a surface, the tungsten monocarbide melts and coats the cast tungsten carbide particles thus forming particles having a core of cast tungsten carbide and a shell of tungsten monocarbide (see Massey, col. 2, lines 46-51 (see Fig. 4)). However, these particles are embedded in the metal matrix 35 and are not powders (see Fig. 4).

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

A three-month extension of time fee has been charged to our credit card. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13077-00116-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 3, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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